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BROWNHILLS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Report

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND
Chief Sanitary Inspector,
ON THE WORK OF THE
Public Health Services.

1951

Chairman of the Health Committee:

Councillor Mrs. E. Bridgen.

Chairman of the Council:

Councillor D. Marklew, J.P.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (Part-time):

Dr. T. S. PATERSON, M.B.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

JOHN WILSON, D.P.A. (Lond.), M.R.San.I.,

M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E.

Certificate of R.S.I. as Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Certificate of R.S.I. as Smoke Inspector.

Certificate of R.S.I. in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

K. BLOWER, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

Student Sanitary Inspectors:

EAN MARKLEW

GEOFFREY CROWE.

Clerks:

1. MAISIE COLLINGWOOD (Chief Clerk).

2. Vacant—duties performed by Student Sanitary Inspectors.

Handyman:

S. Wright.

Rodent Operative:

E. Marklew.

BROWNHILLS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1951

Health Department,
Coombe House,
Brownhills.

*To the Chairman and Members of
Brownhills Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It gives me pleasure to present to you my report for 1951, which has been compiled in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular of the 10th December, 1951. The chief matters of interest are summarised as under.

AREA AND RATEABLE VALUE.

The area of the district is 6,307 acres. The rateable value is £68,145. The sum represented by a penny rate is £253.

POPULATION.

The Registrar General's figure for the estimated population is 21,320 (mid-year). The provisional population according to the 1951 census is 21,482 which shows an increase of 3,114 over the 1931 census. The 1951 census shows that there were 10,759 males and 10,723 females. The density of population is 3.4 per acre.

The following is a summary of houses built during 1951:

By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	...	8
Permanent houses by the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	56

There is still a considerable proportion of property which is sub-standard and which can only be dealt with by demolition. The occupants of this type of property have borne with fortitude poor living conditions for many years. In many cases they have waited longer for re-housing than others who have already been more fortunate under the present points scheme. Two families living in a house of reasonable standard do not necessarily take priority. A continuous danger to health exists in the sub-standard dwelling.

Similarly, a dwelling overcrowded but occupied by one family only, does not stand favourably on the points list.

I trust that more favourable consideration will be given to these cases in the immediate future.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The principal industry is mining. Further facilities are being made available for factory sites, which should prove of material benefit to the district.

BIRTHS, 1951.

Live Births—

				Male.		Female.		Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	153	...	162	...	315
Illegitimate		...	...	4	...	5	...	9
Total								324

Still Births—

				Male.		Female.		Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	5	...	1	...	6
Illegitimate		...	...	—	...	—	...	—
Total								6

The number of live births gives a birth rate of 15.2 per thousand of the population, as compared with 15.5 for England and Wales. The area comparability factor for Births is 1.00.

Still Births numbered 6, none of which was illegitimate. This gives a still birth rate of 0.28 per thousand of the population. For England and Wales the rate is 0.36. For 126 Great Towns and London the rate is 0.45 and for 148 Smaller Towns (25,000 to 50,000 population at 1931 census) it is 0.38.

Of the total legitimate births, 153 were males and 162 females. 9 births were illegitimate.

DEATHS, 1951.

Deaths numbered 230—130 males and 100 females.

This gives a crude death rate of 10.8 per thousand and a corrected rate of 12.85 per thousand.

The rate for England and Wales is 12.5 per thousand of the population.

(The area comparability factor for Births is 1.00 and for Deaths 1.19 and when multiplied by the crude death or birth rate it gives the corrected figure for the district. This procedure is necessary in order to make allowance for the variations in age distribution of the population throughout the country.)

The Infantile Mortality Rate per thousand live births is 27.8.

Deaths of legitimate infants per thousand legitimate live births is 28.6.

There are no illegitimate deaths recorded.

There were no deaths from puerperal causes.

Deaths from Measles—Nil.

Deaths resulting from Whooping Cough—Nil.

Deaths resulting from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)—Nil.

The number and causes of deaths for 1951 are shown in the following table:—

DEATHS, 1951.

Cause	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	5	8
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	2	8
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	1	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	3	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	12	19
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	—	—
Diabetes	3	—	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	11	21
Coronary disease, angina	9	7	16
Hypertension with heart disease	4	3	7
Other heart disease	39	21	60
Other circulatory disease	1	1	2
Influenza	5	10	15
Pneumonia	3	1	4
Bronchitis	14	4	18
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	—	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	—	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	1	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	14	13	27
Motor vehicle accidents	1	—	1
All other accidents	1	2	3
Suicide	—	1	1
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
All causes	130	100	230

DEATHS — AGE DISTRIBUTION.

Under 1 year	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	Over 70	Total
9	3	—	—	1	5	5	12	36	41	118	230

Under one year there were 9 deaths.

69% of the deaths occurred in persons over 60 years.

31% were under 60 years.

The causes of death show little variation.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

Disease	Under 1 month	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-9	9-12	Total
Congenital Atelectasis	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Prematurity	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage etc.	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Broncho pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Tentorial Tear	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total									9

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS.

Year.	Number.		Rate.
1942	...	27	62.0
1943	...	26	62.3
1944	...	28	60.3
1945	...	31	83.5
1946	...	19	41.9
1947	...	16	30.8
1948	...	16	40.7
1949	...	9	21.9
1950	...	17	43.7
1951	...	9	27.8

The following Table is inserted for comparison:—

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1951. Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and great towns including London	148 smaller towns (Resident pop. 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 census)	London Adm. County	Brownhills
Rates per 1,000 Home population					
Births:—					
Live Births ..	15.5	17.3	16.7	17.8	15.2
Still Births ..	0.36	0.45	0.38	0.37	0.28
Deaths:—					
All causes ..	12.5 *	13.4	12.5	13.1	12.85
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Whooping Cough ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Diphtheria ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis ..	0.31	0.37	0.31	0.38	0.37
Influenza ..	0.38	0.36	0.38	0.23	0.70
Smallpox ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio Encephalitis	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Pneumonia ..	0.61	0.65	0.63	0.61	0.18
Notifications:— (corrected)					
Typhoid Fever ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.00
Meningococcal Infection ..	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.04
Scarlet Fever ..	1.11	1.20	1.20	1.10	0.56
Whooping Cough ..	3.87	3.62	4.00	3.11	4.64
Diphtheria ..	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.00
Erysipelas ..	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.15	0.09
Smallpox ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles ..	14.07	13.93	14.82	14.64	20.68
Pneumonia ..	0.99	1.04	0.96	0.72	1.21
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polio- encephalitis)					
Paralytic ..	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.00
Non-Paralytic ..	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.00
Food Poisoning ..	0.13	0.15	0.08	0.23	0.00

* Rates per 1,000 total population.

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and great towns including London	148 smaller towns (Resident pop. 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 census)	London Adm. County	Brownhills
Deaths:—	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
All causes under 1 year of age.. ..	29.6 †	33.9	27.6	26.4	27.8
Enteritis and Diarr- hoea under 2 years of age	1.4	1.6	1.0	0.7	0.00
Notifications:—	Rates per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births				
(corrected)					
Puerperal Fever } Puerperal Pyrexia }	10.66	13.77	8.08	14.90	3.03
† Per 1,000 related live births.					

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales:—

Intermediate List No. and cause	Number of Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15—44	Brownhills
A115 Sepsis of pregnancy, child- birth and the puerperium	70	0.10		
A116 { Abortion with toxæmia ..	3	0.00	0	—
{ Other toxæmias of preg- nancy and the puerperium	167	0.24		
A117 Haemorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth	91	0.13		
A118 Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxæmia ..	37	0.05	4	—
A119 Abortion with sepsis .. .	66	0.09	7	—
A120 Other complications of preg- nancy, childbirth and the puerperium	125	0.18		

**SECTION 47,
NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.**

Action was commenced in respect of one person (female), but Court proceedings were withdrawn as she entered the Home voluntarily.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Three cases of Dysentery and 4 cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified.

No cases of Diphtheria were notified. This fact emphasises the value of the immunisation policy. It is interesting to note that in 1931 there were 18 cases of Diphtheria and there was one death from this cause. The figures for other years might even prove more spectacular in showing the improvement in the figures relating to this disease.

Vaccination against Smallpox is no longer compulsory but the same facilities exist for this preventive treatment.

In the near future it is hoped that Whooping Cough vaccine will become more efficient.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease	Under 1 Year	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	70 and over	Total
Measles	12	263	156	4	1	1	2	2	—	—	—	441
Whooping Cough ..	4	59	34	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	99
Scarlet Fever ..	—	5	5	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	12
Pneumonia ..	—	5	2	2	2	—	2	5	5	3	—	26
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Poliomylitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Polio Encephalitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	3

TUBERCULOSIS.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 10 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 „	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15 to 20 „	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 to 30 „	3	5	—	3	1	1	—	—
30 to 40 „	2	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
40 to 50 „	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
50 to 60 „	3	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
60 to 70 „	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
70 and over	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	12	5	1	5	2	6	—	—

Re-housing of Tuberculosis patients is under consideration. In my next report, I hope to be able to state that a satisfactory plan has been evolved.

The home nursing of advanced cases of tuberculosis is still one of difficulty. The services of the district nurse are of great value in these circumstances. In due course the various sanatoria will be more able to deal with such cases.

HOSPITALS.

Bacteriological and Clinical examinations are generally done at Stafford and Walsall Hospital laboratories.

Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Walsall Hospitals serve the district as regards Surgical, Medical and Specialised Departments. For the most part maternity cases are served by the hospitals in Lichfield.

Hammerwich Cottage Hospital has been closed for structural alterations for almost a year. There is some hope that it will re-open early in 1953. Out-patients are still seen and, if necessary, referred to Lichfield and Burton-on-Trent hospitals.

Cases of Infectious Diseases are sent to Tamworth Isolation Hospital.

Infant Welfare Centres and Ante Natal Clinics are under the control of the County Council, although some doctors have ante natal clinics at their own surgeries at specified times.

The Ambulance service is also under the control of the County Council and the service is now satisfactory.

I am grateful to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support and wish to acknowledge the help and loyal co-operation of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his staff, and Mrs. Collingwood for help in preparing the statistics and the report for the printers.

Yours faithfully,

T. S. PATERSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

BROWNHILLS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Health Department,
Coombe House,
Brownhills.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR ON THE SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE URBAN DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR 1951.

*To the Chairman and Members of
Brownhills Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I respectfully submit my Annual Report on the sanitary circumstances of the Urban District.

PART I — INTRODUCTION

The various sections of this report indicate that there has been steady progress throughout the year. Preventive health measures do not usually yield spectacular results but the neglect to provide an efficient and complete sanitary service in its fullest sense can be catastrophic. The department has endeavoured to sympathetically meet the needs of the inhabitants and to provide them with such a service in spite of many difficulties.

This report can be accepted as a statement of a year's work which is now history. It can also be seriously analysed to find ways and means of improving the service in the future. I hope it will be used in this way.

PART II — STAFF

The Council have seen fit to reduce the establishment of the Department to Chief Sanitary Inspector, one Additional

Sanitary Inspector, Chief Clerk and General Clerk (in addition there is a Rodent Operative and a Handyman). This is a reduction of one Additional Sanitary Inspector in the qualified staff and is a retrograde step which I hope will be reconsidered at the earliest opportunity.

There are two student sanitary inspectors (general grade). The qualifying examination for sanitary inspectors covers a wide syllabus and the standard required is high. It is essential that students entering the service are equipped with a basic knowledge and an ability capable of attaining this standard.

PART III — WATER SUPPLY

The public water supply is provided by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. There has been no case of shortage and the satisfactory quality and quantity have been maintained.

228 samples of the mains supply have been submitted for bacteriological examination. These have been taken with particular reference to mining subsidence and it is gratifying to report that only five samples showed unusual b. coli counts and that follow up samples gave nil b. coli counts. The proposed extension of Walsall Wood Colliery means that the area of coverage provided by sampling must be increased.

8 samples taken from wells all gave high b. coli counts which in 5 cases showed evidence of faecal origin.

There are wells at: Keepers Cottage (1), 231-233, Watling Street (1), 185, Hednesford Road (1), The Wilkin (1), 10-12, Holly Lane (1), 47, Canal Side (1), 57, Sandhills (1). One house previously served by a well has been provided with a piped water supply. An order has been placed for a main extension to two of the houses mentioned, one case is under consideration and four other houses have been scheduled for Housing Act action.

WATER SUPPLY SUMMARY:—

Total houses in the district	...	...	...	5,921
Houses with direct piped water supply	...	...	...	5,794
Houses with stand pipes	...	...	...	32
Number of stand pipes	...	...	...	6
Houses with communal taps	...	...	...	86
Houses with wells	...	...	...	9
Number of wells	...	...	...	7

The following is a statement on the Water Supply to the Urban District, kindly submitted by R. A. Robertson, Esq., Engineer-in-Chief to the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company:

1.—The supply to the area has been satisfactory in respect of quality and quantity.

2.—The Supply to the Urban District of Brownhills is afforded in part from pumping stations situated outside the boundary of the Authority and in part from Sandhills Pumping Station within the boundary.

All the waters as pumped are examined at regular intervals, both bacteriologically and chemically. Bacteriological samples are also examined of all the raw waters.

During 1951, 25 samples were examined from Sandhills Pumping Station, all of which were free from all forms of coliform bacteria.

12 samples were taken from Norton Canes, 13 from Brownhills and 14 from Clayhanger, all of which were free from coliform bacteria.

During 1951, a total of 1,540 samples were examined bacteriologically from the Norton Canes area, where mains are affected by mining subsidence. 98.2% were free from coliform bacteria, and 99.8% were free from Bact. Coli.

40 samples were examined from Coppice Road, Walsall Wood, following a complaint of unsatisfactory bacteriological results. Five samples contained coliform bacteria, four confirming intermediates and one aerogenes. No Bact. coli. were isolated.

The average chemical results for 1951 of the tap samples from the Waterman's house, Norton Canes, and the Municipal Buildings, Brownhills, were as follows:—

	Norton Canes.				Brownhills.			
	Parts per million.				Parts per million.			
pH	7.7	..	..	7.5	
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	80	..	..	119	
Chlorides (Cl)	16.1	..	..	26.0	
Ammonical Nitrogen (N)005	..	..	Trace	
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)005	..	..	Trace	
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)	2.9	..	..	7.5	
Oxygen absorbed (3 hr. at 27°C)13	..	..	.12	
Temporary Hardness	74	..	..	114	
Permanent Hardness	41	..	..	105	
Total Hardness	115	..	..	219	
Iron (Fe)02	..	..	.02	
Manganese (Mn)	Nil	..	..	Nil	
Zinc (Zn)	Nil	..	..	Nil	
Poisonous Metals (Cu and Pb)	Nil	..	..	Nil	
Free Cl04	..	..	Nil	

3.—The waters are not liable to plumbo solvency, no lead being found in any of the samples examined.

4.—Sterilisation of waters is carried out where possible at the pumping stations as a precautionary measure. Special apparatus and staff are available in the event of contamination. Chlorination on site is practised, following burst mains, etc., laying of new mains, and emptying of reservoirs. The repaired and new mains, etc., are not brought back into use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.

PART IV — SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

The policy of providing water closets in lieu of other types of sanitary accommodation has continued by the use of Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936. A further 21 conversions were completed in the year making a total of 340 in the last six years. This figure is limited by the funds made available in the annual estimates. It is money well spent and much appreciated by the tenants of the houses concerned.

TABLE 1 — SEWER AVAILABLE.

District	Pails.			Privies		
	To be converted.	For H.A. Action.	Total	To be converted.	For H.A. Action.	Total
Norton Canes (including Wyrley)	31	23	54	12	9	21
Brownhills West	6	—	6	2	—	2
Walsall Wood	—	—	—	1	—	1
Shelfield and High Heath ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brownhills	1	12	13	6	2	8
Totals	38	35	73	21	11	32

TABLE II — SEWER NOT AVAILABLE.

District	Pails	Privies
Norton Canes (including Wyrley)	47	30
Brownhills West	17	7
Walsall Wood	16	15
Shelfield and High Heath ..	4	1
Brownhills	22	3
Totals	106	56

Number of Houses	...	...	...	5,921
Number of Houses with water closets	...	...	...	5,654
Number of houses with privies	...	...	...	88
Number of houses with pails	...	...	...	179
Number of houses with bins	...	...	...	5,833
Number of premises with bins	...	...	...	5,881

There is a small number of tippler type closets included in the figure shown against houses with water closets and a number of houses have water closet pedestals but no flushing apparatus. These will eventually have to be dealt with under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

(a) The Norton Canes area has its own sewerage system, including disposal works. The works are adequate but one or two lengths of sewer have been affected by mining subsidence. 77 houses are situated in localities not served by a public sewer.

(b) Brownhills and Walsall Wood are sewered to the Green Lane Disposal Works. This plant has been extensively reconstructed due to the lack of capacity of the old works. The previous effluent was unsatisfactory and as a check 89 chemical samples of the effluent, the brook before discharge and after discharge have been taken.

(c) Shelfield, Watling Street East and Cannock Road areas are sewered to systems operated by neighbouring authorities

(d) Cesspools. I feel I must comment on this method of drainage as there are more than 200 houses on sites where the public sewer is not available and where the drainage is to a receptacle glorifying in the name of cesspool. A cesspool is a watertight receptacle for drainage and has no outlet. It is a means of satisfactory drainage as provided for by the bye-laws and by the Public Health Act, but it is not an ideal method. The size of cesspool, as usually provided, should require to be emptied somewhere about every fortnight or month. The fact that "cesspools" in this area are not emptied at such intervals is sufficient evidence that they are not watertight and that sewage is seeping into the ground. The local term "dumbwell" may have some significance in this respect. If existing cesspools are to be made watertight (as they should be) and emptied at frequent

intervals, then the cesspool-emptying service should be provided at a much cheaper figure than the present £1 per time. In addition, the public sewer should be extended wherever possible.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

This service is controlled by the Engineer and Surveyor. The present occupant of that post has not been with us long and I feel sure that he will agree that the disposal of refuse leaves much to be desired.

The supply of dustbins comes within the purview of the Sanitary Department and the Council have now undertaken to provide bins at a charge of 5s. per annum. This avoids the need for the service of notices under the provisions of Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and the possibility of Court proceedings being required to determine who shall supply a dustbin.

PART V.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Total Visits	7,134
Complaints received	189
Houses Inspected — Public Health Act, Repairs	3,030
— Verminous or Dirty	25
— Overcrowding	59
— Dangerous	45
— Housing Act	46
Caravans	553
Dustbins	187
Water Closets	125
Privy Middens	27
Pails	123
Tipplers	51
Conversions	77
Drains — new and/or tested	88
— existing and/or defective	321
Sewers	35
Cesspools	60
Ashplaces	23
Sewage Works	7
Refuse Tips	28
Butchers' Shops	101
Fish Fryers	97
Food Preparation Premises	172
Ice Cream Premises	38
Food Inspections	57
Licensed Premises	8
Schools	3
Bakehouses	33
Shops Act	22
Cinemas	—
Rodent Control	98
Atmospheric Pollution	59
Rivers Pollution	28
Petroleum Storage	21
Water Supply	330
Factories — mechanical	161
— non-mechanical	2
Keeping of Animals	19
Disinfection and Disinfestation	24
Miscellaneous	515
Infectious Disease Enquiries	33
Samples — Water, bacteriological	235
— Ice Cream	66
— Rivers (Pollution)	89
— Faces (pathological)	13

NOTICES SERVED.

Informal Notices brought forward from 1950	151
Informal Notices served	175
Informal Notices complied with	201
Informal Notices carried forward to 1952	125

STATUTORY NOTICES.

TABLE III.

Section.	Brought forward from 1950.	Served	Complied with	Carried forward to 1952.
Section 7 Factories Act/1937	-	2	2	-
Section 30 Water Act/1945	-	10	5	5
Section 39 Public Health Act/1936 ..	4	13	13	4
Section 45 Public Health Act/1936 ..	2	3	4	1
Section 47 Public Health Act/1936 ..	12	6	14	4
Section 50 Public Health Act/1936 ..	-	2	1	1
Section 75 Public Health Act/1936 ..	1	8	9	-
Sections 92 and 93 Public Health Act/1936	49	108	88	69
Totals	68	152	136	84

NON-COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY NOTICES

The following table and notes indicate the steps taken to obtain compliance with notices. Where notices were complied with at any time before the hearing of the case, proceedings were discontinued. The figures indicate a reluctance by owners to carry out repairs unless it is obvious that they are to be compelled to do so and this in turn is attributable to the small income they receive.

TABLE IV.

Act or Section.	Work authorised in default	Notice complied with by Council	Court Proceedings authorised	Proceedings instituted
Sec. 39. P.H.A/1936.	1	1	6	2
Sec. 45. P.H.A/1936.	—	—	1	1
Sec. 47. P.H.A/1936.	—	—	12	11
Sec. 75. P.H.A/1936.	1	1	—	—
Sec. 94. P.H.A/1936.	—	—	48	15
Sec. 154. P.H.A/1936.	—	—	3	3
Sec. 269. P.H.A/1936.	—	—	3	2
Sec. 41. P.H.A/1936.	—	—	1	1
Sec. 58. P.H.A/1936.	—	—	1	1

Section 39, Public Health Act, 1936.

Proceedings were instituted in 2 cases. One was withdrawn as the work was carried out before the date of hearing and in the second case an adjournment was agreed to for the work to be completed.

Section 41, Public Health Act, 1936.

A drain was opened up and repaired by the insertion of new pipes in order to comply with a notice served by the Local Authority. No notice of inspection was given to the Local Authority and the drain was covered up. The case was dismissed—no reason being given.

Section 45, Public Health Act, 1936.

Proceedings were commenced in 1 case but were withdrawn on completion of the work.

Section 47, Public Health Act, 1936.

Complaint was made to Court in respect of 11 Statutory Notices which had not been complied with and which required the provision of water closets in lieu of other types. All the cases were withdrawn on an undertaking being given to do the work forthwith.

Section 58, Public Health Act, 1936.

The brickwork of the front wall of a row of 6 houses was deemed to be dangerous and complaint to that effect was made to the magistrates. An order was made to render the wall safe in 6 weeks.

Section 94, Public Health Act, 1936.

Proceedings were instituted in 12 cases. 6 were withdrawn as the work was completed before the date of hearing. 3 were adjourned and subsequently withdrawn on completion and nuisance orders were made in the remaining 3 cases.

Section 154, Public Health Act, 1936.

3 persons were summoned for giving articles to children under 14 years of age in exchange for rags. Fines of £2, £1/10/0 on each of two charges and £5 were imposed.

Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936.

2 convictions were obtained where caravans were situated on sites within the urban district without licences.

PART VI — HOUSING.

I have listed over 300 houses for which demolition procedure is the only method which can be employed to adequately deal with their sub-standard state. The rate at which they are dealt with depends on the building programme as one in every 10 houses built is allocated to the rehousing of persons so displaced.

The enforcement of housing repairs under the provisions of the Housing Act is limited by the fact that such repairs must be at "reasonable expense," having regard to the estimated cost of the works necessary to render a house fit and the value which it is estimated it will have when the works are completed. The estimated value of a house can only be in terms of net income from the rent. As rents are

fixed and the cost of repairs mounts rapidly this relationship puts many well built houses in the " not repairable at reasonable expense " category. In other words there is a large group of houses which we would like to see repaired, a group which must of necessity remain occupied for many years and at which only nuisances within the limited provisions of the Public Health Act can be dealt with.

PROCEDURE UNDER HOUSING ACTS.

(a) Section 11, Housing Act, 1936.

The following houses were reported to the Council under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, as being unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered so fit at reasonable expense:—

Nos. 334 and 336, Hednesford Road, Norton Canes—
undertaking to repair accepted.

Nos. 19 and 21, High Street, Norton Canes—demolition
order made.

(b) Housing Act, 1949.

The Council received several applications for improvement grants but in no case was a grant approved.

COUNCIL HOUSES.

There are 927 applicants on the Council's waiting list. Many of these are in urgent need of a house and their quest must have many disappointments and discouragements, particularly when a tenancy seems so far away. The assessment of need is not easy and it must be hard to believe that there are others worse off than oneself.

Mr. C. R. Closs, F.I. Housing, Housing Manager, has supplied the following information in respect of Council Houses, as at 31st December, 1951:—

Prior to the late War:—

Act under which constructed.	— Bedrooms —			— Bungalows —			Total.
	Two	Three	Four	Prefab.	Old Persons.		
1919	—	250	—	...	—	...	250
1923	—	154	—	...	—	...	154
1924	92	158	—	...	—	...	250
1925	102	344	30	...	6	...	482
1930	44	56	30	...	—	...	130
Totals	238	962	60	—	6		1,266

Post-war:—

1946	...	—	1	—	50	—	51
1947	...	4	36	—	—	—	40
1948	...	4	53	—	80	—	137
1949	...	2	39	—	13	8	62
1950	...	—	57	1	—	—	58
1951	...	8	48	—	—	—	56
Totals		18	234	1	143	8	404

PART VII — FOOD HYGIENE

Premises where food is stored or sold have been visited and advice given on food hygiene at every available opportunity. Talks have been given to various organisations in order to further disseminate knowledge on this subject. A small authority, such as this, feels the loss of the services of the sound projectors of the Central Office of Information as they formed a useful adjunct to lectures.

There have been no cases of food poisoning notified.

Slaughter of Animals.

The slaughter of animals for general consumption takes place at the Public Abattoir situate within the Walsall County Borough.

There are fourteen private slaughter-houses in the district and five of these are licensed by the Ministry of Food for the slaughter of private pigs.

Licences under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, have been issued in accordance with the applications received. No licence has been refused.

Butchers' shops have been inspected at frequent intervals.

Milk Supply.

The routine sampling of milk for bacteriological examination is carried out by the County Sampling Officers and copies of reports are forwarded to us for information, and action where necessary.

The following table shows the results reported by the County Council to the Urban District Council:—

TABLE V.

Milk	No.	Phenol-phthalein test	Phosphatase test	Turbidity test	Methylene Blue test
Undesignated	29	—	—	—	6 Failed 23 Passed
Pasteurised	22	22 Negative	23 Negative		1 Failed 21 Passed
Sterilised	15	—	—	15 Negative	—
T.T. (Pasteurised)	4	3 Negative	3 Negative	—	1 Failed 3 Passed
T.T.	2	—	—	—	2 Passed

This means that 6 samples of undesignated milk, one of pasteurised and one of T.T. (Pasteurised) did not reach the required standard.

16 samples of milk examined biologically were found to be free from Tuberculosis.

Brucella abortus was isolated from samples taken from one herd and after receipt of a second positive result a notice was served, dated the 15th November, 1951, signed by the Medical Officer of Health, under Regulation 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. The notice specified that the milk must be heat treated. There are inherent difficulties in tracking down the source of such an infection, but through the co-operation of the County Health Department this was done and the danger was removed.

Visits to farms have been made in conjunction with the Milk Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Ice Cream.

62 premises are registered for the sale of ice cream. Three premises are registered for manufacturing purposes, two employ a cold mix and one a hot mix.

The following table shows the results of samples taken:—

TABLE VI.

Grade	Time taken to reduce methylene blue (Hours)	No. of samples reducing methylene blue.		
		Produced in district		Produced out side district
		"Hot Mix"	"Cold Mix"	"Hot Mix"
1	4½ or more	1 (100%)	1 (100%)	46 (71.9%)
2	2½ - 4	—	—	16 (25%)
3	½ - 2	—	—	2 (3.1%)
4	0	—	—	—
	Totals	1	1	64

Owing to the numerous factors governing the hygienic quality of ice cream, it is unwise to pay too much attention to the bacteriological results on any single sample. Judgment should be based rather on a series of samples. It is suggested that over a six-monthly period, 50 per cent. of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade 1, 80 per cent. into Grades 1 or 2, not more than 20 per cent. into Grade 3, and none into Grade 4.

Manufacture of Preserved Foods, etc.

28 fish frying establishments are registered and 13 premises for the manufacture of other types of preserved food.

Routine inspections have been made and improvements have been carried out on request. Four written intimations of defects were given where premises fell short of the requirements of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Food Surrenders.

The following items of food have been surrendered during the year as being unfit for human consumption:

65 tins of Ham	.. .. .	6-cwts. 19-lbs.	8 -ozs.
965 tins of Meat	.. .. .	6-cwts. 37-lbs.	2 -ozs.
49 tins of Milk	.. .. .	52-lbs.	8 -ozs.
3 tins of Beans	.. .. .	3-lbs.	
61 tins of Peas	.. .. .	43-lbs.	13-ozs.
8 tins of Salmon	.. .. .	3-lbs.	
1 tin of Tonic Food	.. .. .		8 -ozs.
478 tins of various Fruits, etc.	.. .. .	3-cwts. 82-lbs.	14½-ozs.
11 tins of Tomato Soup	.. .. .	11-lbs.	
13 tins of Spaghetti and Sausages	.. .. .	13-lbs.	
1 case of Finnan Cod	.. .. .	14-lbs.	
2 pieces of Bacon	.. .. .	21-lbs.	8 -ozs.
12 Pork Pies	.. .. .	14-lbs.	4 -ozs.
Black Pudding	.. .. .	48-lbs.	
5 portions of Cheese	.. .. .	28-lbs.	12 -ozs.
30 cartons of Cheese	.. .. .	7-lbs.	8 -ozs.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938 — Samples.

The Chief Inspector for Weights and Measures for the Staffordshire County Council has supplied the following information in respect of samples taken by his Department:

DETAILS OF SAMPLES TAKEN, BROWNHILLS URBAN DISTRICT.

Substance.								Genuine.	Adulterated.	
Milk .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	—
„ Tuberculin Tested	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	—
„ Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	..	—
„ T.T., Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	—
„ Sterilised	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	..	—
Sausage .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	—
Butter .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	—
Margarine .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	—
Cooking Fat .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	—
Lard .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	—
Cheese .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	—
„ Gruyere	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	..	1
Sugar .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	—
Table Jelly .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	—
Scotch Broth .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	—
Cake Mixture .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	—
Flour, Plain .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	—
„ Self-raising	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	—
Salad Cream .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	—
Coffee and Chicory	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	—
Sardines .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	—
Cornflour .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	—
Ground Almonds .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	—
Strawberries, Tinned	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	—
Desiccated Cokernut	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	—
Sago .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	..	1
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	74	..	2

Of the adulterated samples, the Gruyere Cheese was deficient in Fat, and the Sago consisted of Tapioca.

Model Byelaws.

The Council have taken the necessary steps to adopt the Model Byelaws covering the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and the Sale of Food in the Open Air, and these will come into operation in 1952.

PART VIII.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council employ a full time Rodent Operative in order to discharge its duties under the Pests Act, 1949. There is a free service for private dwellings and occupiers have a duty to notify the local authority of any infestation. The elimination of rats and mice has been made a duty, not because they are disliked, but because they are a danger to health as well as destroying foodstuffs.

The sewers have been subjected to an annual test bait and maintenance treatment. Refuse tips, sewage works and other Council properties have been treated.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Three atmospheric pollution stations are in operation, each consisting of a sulphur dioxide instrument and a deposit gauge. It will be seen from the tables that Shelfield receives the greatest deposit of soot per square mile which is probably due to the fact that it is nearer to densely populated and industrialised areas. Another interesting fact is that the Brownhills Sulphur Dioxide instrument has the highest district incidence.

Norton Canes had the highest rainfall for the year with 33.60 inches. The month of November was the wettest with 6.21 inches (Norton Canes) and the driest months were October, July and June in that order. The average annual rainfall for the district as a whole was 32.82 inches.

TABLE VII.

DEPOSIT GAUGES — RECORDS OF DEPOSITS

Month.	Deposits in tons per square mile per month		
	Norton Canes.	Brownhills.	Shelfield.
January	12.10	16.86	15.57
February	10.19	14.17	13.07
March	15.12	— *	15.95
April	15.22	— *	16.97
May	10.45	20.31	20.70
June	11.25	13.14	16.02
July	12.20	16.63	15.60
August	16.60	— +	14.27
September	10.59	13.64	15.74
October	8.52	11.15	11.43
November	21.67	22.04	20.50
December	12.36	13.47	14.30
Totals	156.27	141.41 (9 months only)	190.12

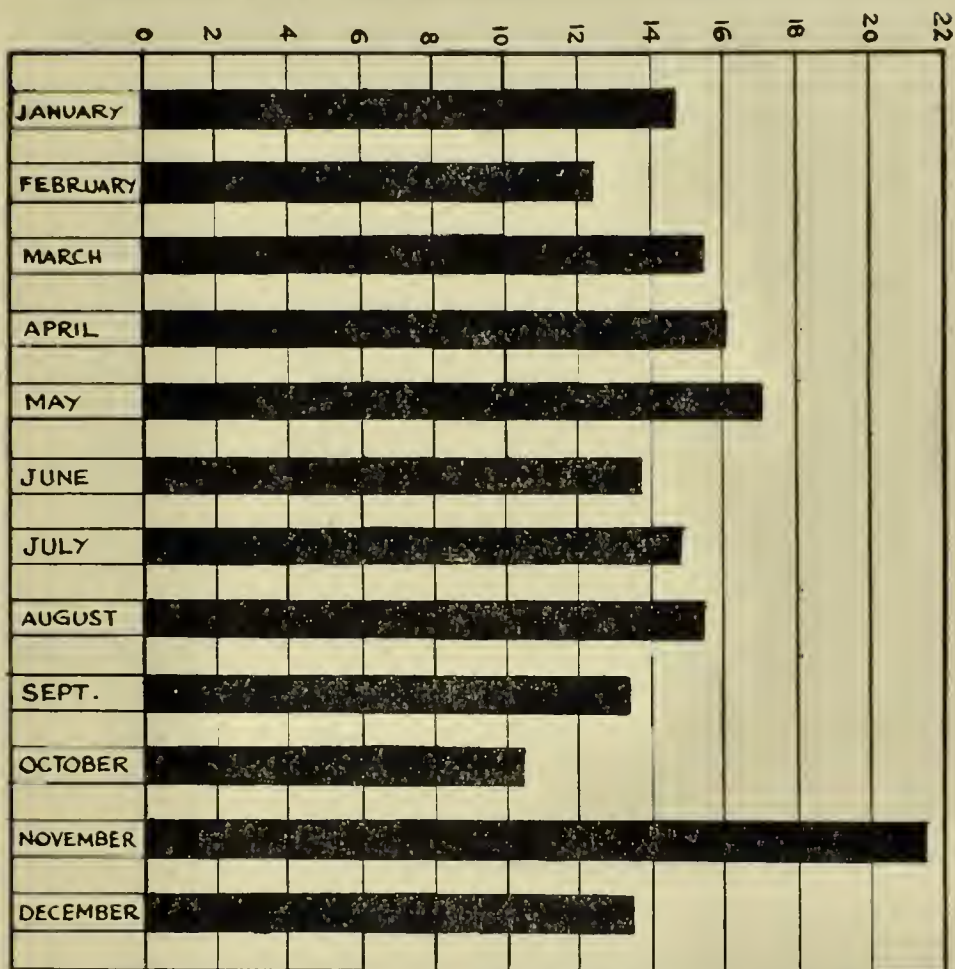
Monthly Average 13.02 15.73 15.84

* Gauge damaged—no reading possible.

+ Gauge broken—no reading possible.

DEPOSIT GAUGES 1951 SEASONAL INCIDENCE (Averages)

Seasonal Average for whole of District Tons/sq. Mile per month



DEPOSIT GAUGES 1951 DISTRICT INCIDENCE (Averages)

Tons per square Mile per Month

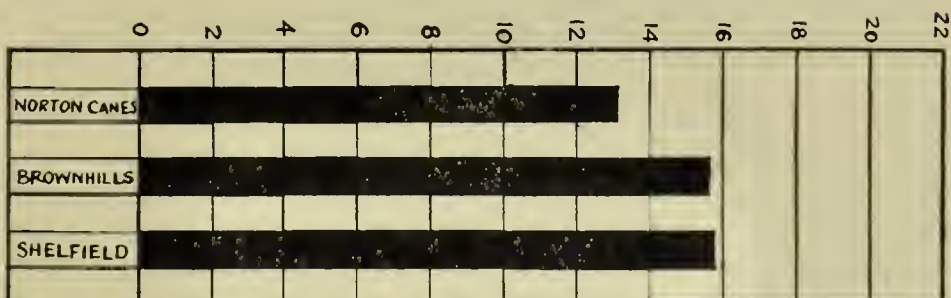


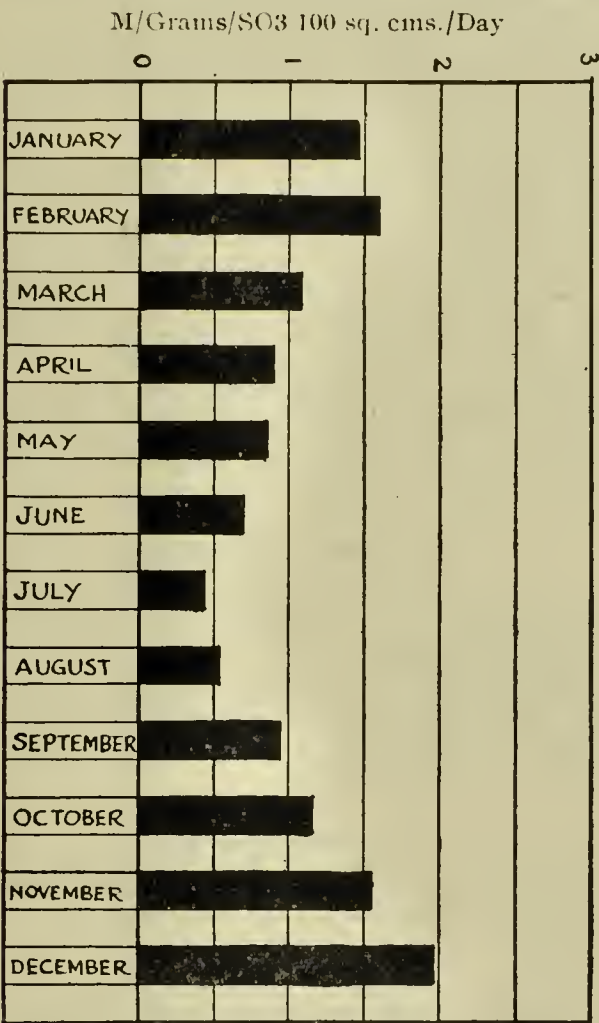
TABLE VIII.

LEAD PEROXIDE GAUGES—RECORD OF SULPHUR POLLUTION

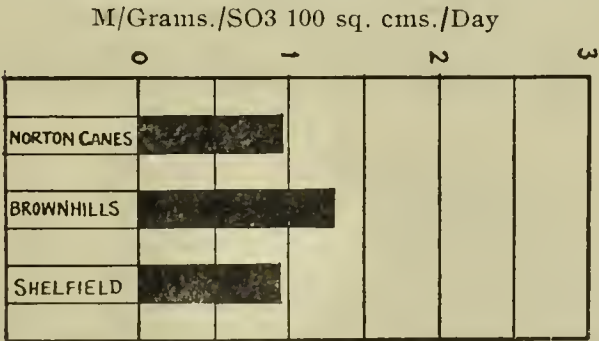
Weight of Sulphur Trioxide collected—in Milligrammes
per 100 square centimetres per day.

Month.	Norton Canes.	Brownhills.	Shelfield.
January	1.07	1.92	—
February	1.38	2.14	1.26
March	0.91	1.44	0.96
April	0.70	1.12	0.76
May	0.73	0.93	0.80
June	0.64	0.62	0.76
July	0.34	0.53	0.46
August	0.42	0.56	0.59
September	0.86	0.85	0.83
October	1.06	1.31	1.32
November	1.16	1.89	1.59
December	1.39	2.38	2.18
Totals	11.66	15.39	11.51 (11 months only)
Monthly Average	0.97	1.28	0.96

LEAD PEROXIDE GAUGES 1951 (SULPHUR DIOXIDE) SEASONAL INCIDENCE (Averages)



LEAD PEROXIDE GAUGES 1951 (SULPHUR DIOXIDE) DISTRICT INCIDENCE (Averages)



MOVABLE DWELLINGS.

Five licences have been issued for limited periods in respect of caravans stationed on individual sites. Renewals are granted where the sanitary circumstances are maintained satisfactorily. Two applications for licences were refused.

The Council have agreed to provide a caravan site and negotiations are proceeding to this end.

The urban district contains land which has an attraction for caravan dwellers who are nomadic. These people are of three types: (a) gypsies who sell pegs, artificial flowers, etc.; (b) "spivs," who are interested in making money by deals in scrap iron, etc.; and (c) a few people who have found the caravan an answer to their need for a mobile headquarters. Visits to these three types are responsible for the high number of 553 inspections made during the year. A recognised resting-place for these caravan dwellers should be provided and I hope the day is not too far distant when this problem is tackled by the central government.

LICENSED PREMISES.

All the 35 public houses within the district have been inspected and found to be generally in the same good condition as in previous years.

Minor alterations have been carried out, but I would again stress the importance of the lighting of sanitary conveniences and in particular that the lights are switched on every evening in good time.

MORTUARY.

The mortuary is looked after by a part-time attendant and the equipment has been well maintained.

CINEMAS, Etc.

Places of entertainment have been inspected and representation was made to the Licensing Sessions in respect of one Cinema where the construction was such that there would be great danger to the public in case of fire. The owners wanted to carry out reconstruction but had been unable to obtain the necessary licence to do the work. As a result of the action taken a completely new facade, projection room, re-wind room, accesses and sanitary accommodation were provided.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Plans of proposals to build or extend factories are made available to the Department for comment before submission by the Engineer and Surveyor to the Plans Committee.

Five certificates as to means of escape in case of fire are in force under Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937.

Details of visits to existing factories are set out in the following table:—

TABLE IX.

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	To H.M. Inspector.	Referred By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	—	1	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1	—	1	—
Total	4	4	—	2	—

TABLE X.

**INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).**

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	52	161	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority * (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	54	163	2	—

CONCLUSION.

I wish to place on record that the staff have worked industriously throughout the year and that the Department feels it is working as a team under the guidance of the Council. The co-operation of the staff of all other departments is appreciated and with your continued confidence it is hoped that succeeding years will show further progress in the field of environmental hygiene.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN WILSON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

STATEMENT by D. J. H. STRANGE, A.M.I.Mun.E.,

Chartered Municipal Engineer,

Deputy Engineer and Surveyor to the Council.

The four items which have some bearing on this Report are Town Planning, Refuse Collection, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

(a) Town Planning.

During the year 1951, the Development Plan of the whole administrative County was brought to its final stage, though the actual submission to the Minister (which should have been made during July) had to be postponed for a few months.

Town Planning is very broad in its scope and as the provisions of the Development Plan are gradually realised, so with better planning of houses and other amenities, the health of the community should be improved.

(b) Refuse Collection.

This service is being maintained. Being a mining area where coal is more plentiful, the contents of the dustbins are very heavy, especially during the winter months. It is very difficult to obtain suitable labour to carry out what has become a heavy and exacting task and the smooth working of the system is often impeded by changes in the personnel. In addition to the emptying of the ordinary dustbins, there are a considerable number of houses which have privies and ashpits or pail closets and these require regular attention, and it is with difficulty that men are obtained to carry out this disagreeable task.

The house refuse is disposed of at the Clayhanger Tip and little complaint is received because it is remote from dwelling-houses.

(c) Sewerage.

The sewerage system of the district is very badly affected by mining subsidence and it is only by constant attention that the sewers are made to function. Where development has taken place, sewers which were originally adequate, are now becoming overloaded and the Council are aware that this major problem will soon have to be tackled.

In addition to minor repairs, one length of main sewer had to be relaid as it had totally broken down due to the effects of mining operations.

(d) Sewage Disposal.

Norton Canes Sewage Disposal Works continues to produce an effluent of high standard.

The Walsall Wood Sewage Disposal Works was not working satisfactorily, and so during the year the medium of the six 60-ft. filters was removed and replaced with a superior type and the beds themselves were reconstructed to obtain better aeration. This work was not quite completed during the year, but one-third of the reconstructed beds were working again, the remaining two-thirds requiring the re-assembling of the distribution arms.

The disposal of sludge at these Works has been to pump it to a large area of waste land. This has been carried on for about 30 years, and during 1951 it was found that no more space was available and so large lagoons were formed in the consolidated sludge area.

A new stormwater overflow from the Works was also laid to the Ford Brook.

